

ONE SHILLING.

4.

THE
Postage Stamps

OF



HAYTI:



By

Fred J. Melville,

President of the Junior Philatelic
Society: Author of "The A B C
of Stamp Collecting"; &c.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

For several years an important scientific work on the history of the postal issues of Hayti, has been in preparation. To make this book more acceptable, and to, in some small measure, pave the way for it, the following elementary treatise has been written. Herein will be found all the data, which will appeal to the mind of the general collector. Should the reader desire to go deeper into the subject, and we consider the subject not unworthy of closer study, let him or her look out for the long-expected collaborated volume from the pens of Messrs. Alexander Holland, Joseph B. Leavy, and J. F. Rich, of the Boston (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society.

A knowledge of the country itself adds to the fascination of the study of its stamps, and a very pleasing account of the country, the stamps of which this book deals is contained in Hesketh Pritchard's "Where Black Rules White."

The Postage Stamps of Hayti.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction—The Story of Hayti.

HAYTI, the "land of high hills,"† is a country which cannot fail to have a distinct attraction for all who are privileged to know its stirring history, and its present system of government, its scenic grandeur, and the richness of its soil as yet undeveloped and uncultured.

The island of Hayti is the only independent one of the West Indies and is largest but one of the group, its area being approximately 29,000 square miles. A better idea of its extent may be gained from comparison with the size of Scotland, which has an area of 30,000 square miles. The western portion of the island is occupied by the Haytian Republic (area 10,204 square miles), and the eastern by the Dominican Republic (18,645 square miles).

In the Haytian Republic, with which this book is concerned, the negro predominates, representing about 90 per cent. of the population; there are mulattos and whites, but both of these classes are

† So called by the original Indian inhabitants from "ai," *land*, and "ti," *high*.

kept strictly under the control of the blacks. The government is entirely in the hands of the blacks, and they will not permit any encroachment upon their authority by the white inhabitants. No white man is permitted to hold office under the government, neither may he vote

Although Roman Catholicism is supposed to be the religion of the country, the grossest heathenism prevails. Snakes are the object of worship of most of the coloured inhabitants, and this *vandoux* worship is believed to be secretly encouraged (or was recently) by the government.*

This island was discovered on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, 1492, by Columbus, who on that day arrived at a natural harbour, which he named St. Nicholas, at the north west extremity of the island. He styled the island Hispanola, and planting a cross he took possession of it on behalf of his Spanish sovereigns. The wreck of the *Santa Maria* off Cape Haitien, on Christmas Eve, 1492, left Columbus and his men with but one vessel, the *Nina*, in which to return to Spain, and so a number of the men were obliged to remain on the island in a fort built of the wreckage of the vessel and styled La Navidad. When Columbus was able to reach the island on his second expedition, the little colony of enforced settlers was no more, and every man had been massacred by Caonaba, the leader of a tribe of Indians in the

* Hesketh Pritchard's "Where Black Rules White." 1900

interior of the island. This, the first attempt at the colonization of America, disastrous though it was, led Columbus to establish another colony there on a more secure basis.

The emigration of Spaniards to the West Indies, and their treatment of the original natives, caused the gradual extinction of the latter. Negroes were brought in to fill their places. The Spaniards increased in numbers, and massed chiefly in the east of the island, while French settlers found wealth in the cultivation of the western end.

The difference between the two nationalities led to much strife, and in 1697 the Treaty of Ryswick gave the western portion of the island to France; but as there was no satisfactory settlement on the boundary line, there was still trouble between the settlers in the east and the settlers in the west.

The slave traffic had increased greatly, and one of the chief results was that the negroes were growing more numerous, and gradually realised that they had power to resent the cruelty of and slavery demanded by their white taskmasters, and when in 1795 the Treaty of Basle gave both parts of the island to France, the negroes, under Toussaint (who took the name of l'Ouverture, as he was to open to his fellow blacks the door of a better future), were ready to withstand the arrival of the French army sent to take over the island. The betrayal of Toussaint l'Ouverture, however, soon followed, and the army for a time held full

away until they became demoralised by fever, and ultimately left the island.

The independence of the blacks was declared on January 1st, 1804. The first President was Dessalines, who, despite his savage and evil nature, is still regarded as the hero of the Republic.

In 1844 the Dominicans became independent, and formed a Republic of their own. Of the subsequent history of the Haytian Republic it is unnecessary to treat. Suffice it to say that it has been none too creditable. Twice its black rulers have endeavoured to make it an Empire, but for the greater part of the time it has been a Republic. Most of its Presidents have met with violent ends, and civil war has raged even in the few years of the present century, which is not yet five years old.

Hayti's capital is now Port au Prince ; its President, General Nord Alexis ; its coinage is denoted in centimes and gourdes. The gourde is the Haytian equivalent of the dollar. Nominally, therefore, the money values are, 100 centimes = 1 gourde = 4/2. But the actual value of the gourde is doubtless considerably lower than 4s.

CHAPTER II.

The First Stamps—The Liberty Head Series— Imperforate.



In view of the fact already stated that of the 600,000 people in the Republic of Hayti, ninety per cent are negroes, the amount of postal business done was, and is now, not very great. This will account for the comparative scarcity of many of the early issues.

Hayti joined the Postal Union in July, 1881, previous to which time no postage stamps were issued. The few inland communications that were carried on were paid for on acceptance by the postal officer receiving the letter. The nations that were represented in Hayti by consuls were enabled to receive letters through the agency of those consuls. Most of the foreign correspondence was with England, France, and the United States. Letters for these and other countries were stamped on board ship, and received the impress of a hand stamp bearing the amount of postage and the word "Steamship". English mail packets to and from America called at certain ports in Hayti where were offices at which English stamps were sold and letters were collected. The postal rate for which was 1/- per half ounce

The first of these offices was opened at Jacmel in 1865, and another at Port au Prince, the capital, was established four or five years later. The office at Jacmel used a duplex postmark which may be distinguished by the number "C59," and Port au Prince used the number "E53." English stamps used in Hayti may therefore be distinguished by these marks. Both these offices ceased to exist when Hayti joined the Postal Union.

In 1881 Hayti was under the Presidency of Salomon, who was at the height of his popularity when the matter of producing stamps came under consideration in the Senate.

Many members of the Senate were in favour of representing the President's portrait on the stamps, but he did not desire this, and proposed in lieu thereof the design of the arms of the Republic.

Before the final decision of the Senate was arrived at it was suggested to the President, by means of a deputation of influential residents, that a series of portraits of past Presidents and heroes should be placed on the stamps as suitable memorials of the great men of the Republic.

General Salomon, however, would not countenance the issue of stamps bearing portraits either of himself or his predecessors. He, however, put forward a new suggestion, namely, that the head of the Liberty, as typical of the Republic, should be represented on the stamps. He pointed out that, as they had

imitated France in adopting French weights and measures, code books, and even language, they could not do better than adopt also the idea of placing the head of Liberty on their stamps.

This suggestion found greater favour in the Senate than any of the other proposals, and was accordingly adopted. The foremost Haytian sculptor, M. Laforesterie, was immediately commissioned to prepare the design of the stamp with a representation of the profile to left of a female head, typifying Liberty. He succeeded in producing an admirable design which shows the profile to great advantage. It is skillfully outlined, and printed boldly and clearly. The shading on the face is produced by horizontal lines, and that on the neck by oblique lines. It is needful to note these phases of the shading as they vary in the later issues of the stamp.

As will be seen from the accompanying illustration the effigy is encircled by a band on which is inscribed "Poste Republic D'Haiti." The lower portion of the circular band is partly covered by a shield outlined in colour. On this shield is the numeral of value which is in all cases represented by very bold figures. On each side of the shield containing the numeral is the word "cent.," which is a contraction for centimes. In the upper corners of the stamp are representations of the Haytian flag, and above each word "cent." is a triangular heap of cannon balls. The cap of Liberty, which breaks through the middle of the top

marginal line and touches the circular band, completes the design.

The design for the first issues of these stamps was engraved upon wood, the execution of which process was entrusted to Monsieur G. Richard, a Parisian engraver. The printing plates were formed of separate electrotypes, which fact in some measure accounts for the irregularity of the positions of some of the stamps on a sheet. The complete sheet, it is believed, consisted of three hundred stamps in six panes of fifty stamps each.

The shield portion of the design of each of the stamps was pierced in each of the three hundred blocks in order to allow the figures denoting the facial value to be changed at will. Into the piercings were dropped small metal plugs for impressing the numeral denoting the value of the stamps to be printed.

This method of making the same blocks serve for the impression of all the values has given rise to a considerable number of minor varieties and curious errors. The plugs are not all exactly alike, some of the numerals being unequal in thickness or broken in outline. A close examination of the stamps will prove the existence of varieties of this nature, but the study of these is not entered upon here. In other cases the plugs have not been fastened properly in the piercings, and have consequently produced slanting figures of value. Again,

specimens may be found with the figures touching the side outlines of the shields.

The constant interchanging of these plugs also caused considerable damage to the outlines of the shields in which they were enclosed. This is not so frequent occurrence in the issue now under consideration as in the subsequent issues. The imperfect fitting of the plugs has, in some cases, broken the lines of the shield, while in others it has raised lines which are superfluous.

The paper on which the stamps of the first issue were printed was white. Previous to the impression of the design, however, a lithographic impression was made to tint the paper on the surface. These impressions, which vary considerably in intensity, give the stamps an oily appearance. Some specimens of the first two values of the series (the 1c. vermilion and the 2c. violet) have been found with the impression on the wrong side of the paper. This is to say they have been found with the design printed on the white surface of the paper, while the lithographed surface (which ought to have been on the face of the stamps) is on the back.

The impression of the design proper was made by surface printing, and this work was carried out by M. Richard's firm in Paris.

The postmarks, which are to be found on the stamps of this series, consist of two concentric circles. Within the inner circle is the date in three lines.

giving the day, month, and the year. Between the two lines of circumference is the name of the post town. These obliterations mostly bear the following inscriptions:—

Port au Prince. Haiti.
 Cap Haitien. Haiti.
 Les Cayes. Haiti.
 Jacmel. Haiti.

The quantities that were printed of the stamps of this issue were as follows:—

1c., 300,000. 5c., 150,000.
 2c., 150,000. 7c., 250,000.
 3c., 150,000. 20c., 25,000.
 Total for the six values, 1,025,000.

In point of rarity the 20c. stamp naturally comes first, then the 5c., 7c., 3c., 2c., and 1c. That the 5c. stamp is rarer than the 7c. one is evidenced both by the corresponding numbers printed and the quotations in the current catalogues.

None of these stamps, however, are expensive. Indeed, there is not a single stamp of Hayti quoted at a higher sum than 16/- (the 20c. of the issue under discussion) in one of the leading English catalogues.

1881 Summary. Imperforate.

1c., vermilion on *buff*.^{*}
 2c., purple on *mauve*.
 3c., bistre on *buff*.
 5c., green on *light green*.
 7c., blue on *greyish*.
 20c., brown on *y:llowish*.

*The second colour, printed in italics, represents the shade of the lithographic impression with which the paper is tinted.

CHAPTER III.

The Liberty Head Series—Perforated. 1882-3.



This first series of Haytian stamps remained in use in the imperforate condition until the latter end of 1882, when some of the values appeared with a perforation gauging $13\frac{1}{2}$. All the stamps of the series are now known to have been uniformly perforated until more than a year later.

The design on the stamps of this perforated emission is in every respect similar to that on the imperforate issue of 1881. The mode of printing, size of the complete sheet and arrangement of panes remained unchanged. The plugs, however, that were used for placing within the pierced shield for denoting the value of the stamps vary very much more than do those of the earlier issue. A glance at a small quantity of stamps of the same denomination of this issue will show very clearly some of the more marked differences in the impression of the figures denoting value. In this series also are to be found more frequently than in the earlier issue cases of dropped, raised, and slanting figures. Again, the broken, bent, and imperfect shields are more commonly met with

in this issue. The greater frequency of these variations in the impressions is undoubtedly due to the fact that the plates from which these specimens were printed were the same that had already been used for printing the earlier emission. Continued wear and the use of the same electrotypes to print each of the values naturally caused additional defects in the plates and in the resultant impressions.

The paper used in the production of this issue is slightly thinner. To its white surface the tint impressions were applied by the lithographic process, as in the foregoing issue. On an average, however, the lithographic impressions are not so deep as in the imperforate issue, although some specimens may exist showing the tints in the deepest form.

Of the impression and the colours of these stamps the same remarks apply as those already given in connection with the earlier issue.

To the philatelic varieties represented in the summary of the 1881 emission are, in the case of this subsequent issue, to be added those varieties due to the irregular working of the perforated machine causing an occasional double perforation, and sometimes omitting the perforation on one or more of the sides of the stamp.

There is no complete record that can be applied to this series of stamps with regard to the number supplied to the Haytian postal authorities. M. Richard

(ut supra), however, in 1883 sent the following quantities to the Republic:—

1c.,	...	...	...	206,000
2c.,	...	...	...	105,000
3c.,	...	...	...	70,000
5c.,	...	...	...	157,000
7c.,	...	...	...	71,000
20c.,	...	...	...	33,000
Total,				642,000

If more than these quantities were printed, there is no evidence to denote the number.*

Summary 1882. Liberty Head Series. Perforated 13.

- 1c., vermilion on *buff*.
- 2c., purple on *mauve*.
- 3c., bistre on *buff*.
- 5c., bright green on *light green*.
- 7c., Antwerp blue on *ultramarine ash*.
- 20c., red brown on *buff*.

Issue of 1883.

The next series of Haytian stamps is an issue similar in design and colour, but which lacks the lithographic surface impression, which was a feature of the earlier stamps. They are generally described as "on white paper." There is not the same extensive variety of shades to be found in these stamps, due probably to the smallness of the issue.

1883 Summary. No Lithographed Impression.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1c., vermilion. | 5c., green. |
| 2c., purple. | 7c., blue. |
| 3c., bistre. | |

* It is, however, very probable that more were printed, as this consignment was much smaller than the preceding one quoted elsewhere. Not only so, but that these stamps were in use for a long time is evinced by the frequent occurrence of postmarks on these dated as late as 1887.

CHAPTER IV.

The Liberty Head Series—Re-engraved 1886-7.

The next variation in the "Liberty head" type of Hayti stamps was caused by the hard use to which the plates were put. It must be remembered that the plates already used had to serve not for stamps of one denomination only, but for the stamps of the entire series. The interchanging of the plugs that denote the numerals had the result of damaging the outlines of the shield to such an extent that the plates became in time quite unsuitable for further impressions. Consequently new plates were required, and a new die was prepared. This time instead of piercing the shields on the plate as before, the numeral of value was included in the die itself—thus doing away with the necessity for changing the numerals in the plates.

In preparing the new die, several variations from the original design were made. First the shading on the face, instead of being composed of horizontal lines, now consists of dots arranged in lines, which may be said to run both horizontally and vertically. On the neck the lines are horizontal, while in the former issue they were oblique. The face on these stamps has not the "full" appearance that is noticeable in the preceding series. The lettering varies slightly, and there is an apostrophe after the D of

D'Haiti instead of a dot. The figures are regular, and there are no superfluous lines about the shield.

In other respects the stamps were produced in the same manner as the preceding ones. They were printed in sheets of 300 stamps, divided up into six panes of fifty stamps each. The paper is white, and has a lithographed impression, which exists in different degrees of intensity. There are only two values of this re-engraved series, namely, the 1 centime and the 2 centime. The colour of the 1 centime varies from bright vermilion to pale red, and that of the 2 centime from deep purple to pale violet.

It is estimated that about 310,000 of the 1c., and 180,000 of the 2c. stamps were printed.

1886 Summary. The Re-engraved Issue

1c., vermilion on *buff*.

2c., purple on *mauve*.

1887. 5c. Large Numeral.



In 1887 a new 5 centime stamp was issued, combining in its design the chief features of the issue just described. The numeral value is considerably larger than that of the 5c. stamp in either the 1881 or the 1882 issues, and the lettering shows a slight variation also. A long apostrophe takes the place of the dot on the earlier issues after the letter D of D'HAÏTI

The lines of the ornaments upholding the shield are not so pronounced on this new stamp, causing the ornaments to appear somewhat different. The paper is the same as before, being white with a tinted lithographic impression. The colour is green, and varies from deep to yellow-green.

1887 Summary. Large Numeral.

5c., deep green on *green*.

CHAPTER V.

The President Salomon Series, 1887-1890.

Issue of 1887.



The next issue of Haytian stamps bears as its distinguishing feature the portrait of President Salomon, "a notorious sectary of snake worship, beneath whose iron hand the country groaned for years, and public executions and robbery were the order of the day."*

As already mentioned, when Hayti first joined the Postal Union in 1881, President Salomon was averse to the representation of his features on the stamps of the Republic. Yet in 1887 he suffered a change to be made in the then current stamps, and a new series bearing his portrait was put forward.

According to a correspondent of M. Victor Flaudrin, the reason for this reversal of the President's views on stamp portraiture is a curious one.

When the first series of stamps bearing the head of Liberty were put into circulation some one in the island stated that the head on the stamp resembled

*Hesketh Pritchard, "Where Black rules White."

that of Madam Salomon. By and by this statement spread, and one journal pointedly remarked that "the President would not have *his* portrait on the stamps, but he put his wife's on instead. That is not what he was asked for."

This was one only of many similar attacks on the President, whose numerous enemies were quick to take up the cry.

Salomon was finally bound to admit that the likeness, by a singular coincidence, was very marked, and at last agreed to the portrayal of his features on the issue of 1887.

The central feature of the design is the full-face portrait of the President, who bears on his coat and front three decorations. Two shields in the upper corners enclose numerals of value, while a third, bearing a similar numeral, is placed below the portrait oval. The inscription HAITI, in outline capitals, occupies the top line, while the value in words is inscribed on a curved band which is intersected by the third shield containing the numeral of value. There are two scroll ornaments beneath the band containing the latter inscription. With the exception of the one centime stamp all the word inscriptions of value are in block capitals, and appear once only on each stamp. The words "**UN CENT,**" which appear twice on the stamp, are in sans-serif capitals.

The stamps are well printed, and the series consists of stamps of four denominations—one, two, three,

and five centimes. Each of these has its distinctive colour, *vis.*, lake, violet, blue, and green respectively. The last two of these colours cannot be said to vary much, though the one centime lake and two centime violet are found in numerous shades. As is frequently the case with stamps printed in violet, it is difficult to get specimens of the stamps in the true original shade. It is possible to form a long and distinctive series of violet shades, and equally possible to arrange another series of purple tints. The one centime stamp varies in hue from deep lake to salmon pink.

These stamps are all on stout white paper, and are thickly encrusted on the back with a yellowish mucilage. The perforation, which is clear and regular, gauges 14. The stamps are somewhat larger than those of previous issues, and have a brighter and more finished appearance. None of the stamps of this series have yet attained any degree of rarity, but there is little likelihood of any large quantity of remainders being suddenly thrown upon the market. If there were any remainders they would probably have been sold by the Haytian authorities before now. They have already disposed of some disused stock of later issues, and it is not likely that any latent stock of the "Head of Salomon" type would be passed over when raising funds by the sale of remainders.

Minor varieties of these stamps (apart from shades) are scarce. The 3 centimes blue stamp is known

exist imperforate. The 5c. green is also known in this condition, but it may be a proof.

Summary 1887 Issue. Head of Salomon.

- 1 centime deep lake.
- 2 centimes violet blue.
- 3 " indigo.
- 5 " deep green.

1890 Provisional Stamp.



Throughout all the issues of Haytian stamps there is ample evidence that the 1 centime and 2 centimes stamps were the most widely used. All the surcharges which have been found necessary to alter the facial value of any of the stamps have consisted in the

overprinting of a higher value in order to reduce it to the 2 centimes denomination. The surcharges are all similar, and consist of a bold figure "2," above which is the word **DEUX** and below **CENT.** in block capitals.

It was three years after the appearance of the Salomon type of Haytian stamps that the stock of two centimes stamps became exhausted. It was therefore decided to issue a provisional stamp in the form of a surcharge on one of the higher values pending the completion of the new series which did not appear until the following year. The surcharging was done by means of a hand stamp, and the results form a

lasting testimony to the carelessness of the postal office who was entrusted with the task of surcharging stamps. All sorts of freak surcharges of this kind exist. There are double and even triple surcharges, others are deficient in one or more of the letters which go to make up the overprint, while others have the surcharges inverted or printed side ways. The first or last letters of DEUX are frequently missing (DEU or EUX), and similarly the first and last letters of CENT. are sometimes absent.

Another error is the omission of the surcharge entirely from one or more of the stamps on the sheet. This, of course, is distinguishable when the stamps are in pairs, one of the pair being surcharged and not the other.

The surcharge was only applied to one stamp of the Salomon head type. This is the three cent blue on which the overprint is in red.

From time to time there have been suggestions of the existence of an error in the colour of the surcharge, and that it was to be found in black. There is no reliable authority for accepting these suggestions of the existence of such a variety. In all probability the supposed existence of a black surcharge has been caused by the dark appearance of some of the surcharges through oxidisation. It is well known that red, owing to its metallic origin, is one of the worst of colours when exposed for any great time.

the air. It frequently happens that these red surcharges have a dull brown or a rust-red appearance, and it is just possible that the oxidation has in some cases gone so far as to produce what to the untrained eye appears to be a black surcharge.

1890 Summary. Red Surcharge.

2 centimes on 3c., indigo.

CHAPTER VI.

The Palm Series — Branches Outspread, 1891-2.



Like the life of the poleman in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, the life of the President of the Haytian Republic was not a happy one. For many years the President has actually died in office, the majority being assassinated, dethroned, exiled, or driven to commit suicide. Salomon's end was (so far as the Presidency of Hayti was concerned) his flight to Cuba, sadly wounded by his sometime subject. During the latter part of his reign he enjoyed little popularity, and was the subject of much enmity. Even the presence of his portrait on the stamps of the 1887 issue gave rise to many jealousies, and it is not surprising to find that after a comparatively short run the Salomon head type comes to an abrupt conclusion. When he was obliged to flee, it was not convenient to the new powers to continue using the stamps with the Ex-President's portrait, but they could not well afford a new series until the old stamps had been used up. It is related that they got over the difficulty by insisting on the Salomon stamps being affixed to the letters and postal packets.

side down. It is said that letters bearing the stamps the right way up were in some cases charged double postage on delivery, just as though no postage had been paid.

In lieu of the President's portrait on the next issue (1891), the central feature of the design is formed by the Arms of the Republic, a much more stable "trade mark" than the head of a President which might at any moment be disconnected from the other "members."

The Arms of the Haytian Republic show a palm tree, with branches outspread, and two guns pointing in opposite directions from the palm tree. A background is formed by several republican flags and two ears. In the front are two anchors, one on each side of a drum. The palm tree, it should be mentioned, is surmounted by a representation of the Cap of Liberty as typical of republican freedom.

The Arms design is enclosed in a circular scroll border, ornamented with leaf decorations. In the two upper corners are large shield designs, from each of which the figure of value stands boldly out.

Joining the two shields is a small band, on which is inscribed "**CENT.**," being, of course, the contraction for centime. A white oblong tablet stretches across the whole length of the design at the foot and bears the inscription "Republique D'Haiti."

The perforation of these stamps is 13. A much thinner and lighter mucilage was used for the gum-

ming of these stamps than for those of the last issue. The facial values of the stamps ranged from 1 to 7 centimes, the colours being purple (1c.), blue (2c.), lilac (3c.), orange (5c.), red (7c.). There are shades of all these colours, but they are by no means so numerous as those of the previous issues, as there is not so much solid colour on these stamps as on the earlier ones. Thus the shades are less noticeable.

Of varieties there are few. The 1c., 3c., and 5c. exist imperforate vertically, while the 7c. is known in the imperforate condition.

Summary. 1891—Palm Series. Branches Outspread.

- 1 centime, purple.
- 2 centimes, blue.
- 3 centimes, lilac.
- 3 centimes, slate.
- 5 centimes, orange.
- 7 centimes, vermilion.

1892. Red Surcharge.

As in the case of the previous issues the supply of 2 centime stamps first became exhausted, and the 3 centime lilac stamp was accordingly surcharged with the usual "Deux 2 Cents." hand stamp. This was done in 1892.

Summary 1892. Red Surcharge.

- 2c. on 3c., lilac.
- 2c. on 3c., slate.

CHAPTER VII.

The Palm Series—Branches Drooping, 1893.



In 1893 the stamps of the palm type underwent a modification in design. In the last series the palm tree, which forms the central portion of the design of the arms of the Haytian Republic, had its branches outspread. In the altered design the branches of the palm are drooping. An additional branch was added to the palm in the new design, making ten branches in all, instead of nine as in the 1891 issue. The remaining portion of the arms design has been slightly darkened and contracted, giving the stamps a more finished if less artistic appearance. The two guns occupy the same position in the foreground with the drum and anchors as they did in the previous issue, and the background is formed by the arrangement of five flags and a spear on each side of the palm tree. The cap of Liberty which surmounts the palm tree is brought into greater prominence in this issue than in the last by the re-arrangement of the palm branches.

The frame design, in which is enclosed the new arms design, is similar in all respects to that of the issue of 1891, and the numerals of value remain unchanged also. The colours have been varied and an additional stamp (the 20 centimes one) included in

the series. All the colours, save that of the 1 centime, are of a regular shade, the 1c. purple varying from a purple to a brown lilac shade.

It is on the margins of this series that the method of numerical registration of sheets is first noted. The stamps are perforated 14, and although there are innumerable varieties caused by deficient perforation in the following issue, this emission is comparatively free from them. The 1 centime exists imperforate all round, and the 3 centimes lilac stamp has been found imperforate vertically.

Of the inscriptions on these stamps the first (the word CENT) is in block capitals, and the other ("Republic D'Haiti") is in tall thin letters, a very prominent apostrophe being used after the letter D.

The paper on which these stamps are printed appears to be of a whiter surface than that of the former issue, and is somewhat thicker. When gummed the paper is very liable to crack, and the least crease makes an ugly crack in the paper.

It is in connection with this issue that the first reference has to be made to the sale of Haytian remainders. Until within a few years back the conduct of the Post Office in Hayti was all that could be desired even by a stamp collector, but there is not wanting at the present time unmistakable signs that the Republic has been influenced by the pressure made by the neighbouring Republic of St. Domingo out of the sale of postage stamps. On only

occasions, however, so far as can be ascertained, has the Government sold the stocks of remainders to philatelic speculators. The chief reason for this extreme moderation on the part of a small republic will probably be found in the suggestion that they have scarcely had any remainders to sell. In a recent clearance of old stock, however, the officials came across a parcel of the sheets of the 20 centime brown stamp of the issue under consideration. These were sold, together with several other lots to be named hereafter, to an American stamp-dealer, and the only statement as to the number of stamps thus sold that can be obtained is the vague information that the supply was "very limited." As, however, they are being offered for sale in considerable quantities, it would appear as though the number was by no means small. These were sold at a figure well under the facial value, and are being retailed at a low price also. Up to the present date, however, none of the other stamps of the series have been sold as remainders, and it is to be assumed that there are none left in stock at the Post Office, or they would have been cleared out at the same time that the 20 centimes stamps were sold.

Summary Issue of 1893. Branches of Palm Drooping.

- 1 centime purple.
- 2 centimes indigo.
- 3 centimes lilac grey.
- 5 centimes orange.
- 7 centimes scarlet.
- 20 centimes brown.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Palm Series—Branches Drooping, 1896-98.

In 1896 the dies were re-engraved and the stamps were printed in new colours. There are several minor points in which the new stamps differed from those of 1893, although they are most readily distinguished by their colours. The inscriptions have been slightly varied in the re-engraving. The "C" in Cent. is so well rounded. The words "Republique d'Haïti" which were displayed in the previous emission in elongated capitals, are on this series in square capitals making the inscription appear to be more spread out. In the numerals of value several variations occur. These are chiefly noticeable in the 1, 2, 5, and 10 centimes stamps. In the 1 centime stamp the serif of the 1 extends out from the stem of the figure more than does the serif in the last issue. The ball of the numeral 2 in the two centimes stamp of 1896 is different from that of the 1893 issue. The line which it is formed in the previous issue falls almost perpendicularly, while in the 1896 issue it curves outward, giving the figure a more curved and graceful form. There is no noticeable variation between the figures 3 on these two series, but the 5 has a short stroke at the top in the later issue. It has the same elongated appearance, while the figure 5 in the previous

issue was well rounded and adequately filled the shield space allotted to it. The figure 7 is not varied, but the line forming the ball of the 2 in 20, on the highest valued stamp of the series, curls inwards instead of dropping almost straight down as it did in the previous issue. The bar at the foot of the figure is shorter than in the earlier stamps.

The shading of the design is slightly deeper than in the case of the previous issue, and this has the effect of showing up the outlines of the design more vigorously than before.

The colour of the 1 centime stamp varies from a light turquoise to a deep blue-green. That of the 2 centimes stamp ranges from light orange-brown to a reddish chocolate-brown. The 3 centimes stamp is printed in a drab-lilac colour which varies considerably in intensity of shade. The colour of the 5 centimes stamp is slate green, and varies but slightly in shade. The colour of the 7 centimes stamp varies from a light to a brownish-grey, and the 20 centimes stamp varies in tint from a pale orange colour to a brick-red.

The paper on which the stamps of this issue are printed is somewhat thinner than that of the last series, and the adhesive matter is but a slight layer of thin gum in the place of the thick cracking mucilage that was used for the last issue.

The perforation of the stamps is $13\frac{1}{2}$.

It is in this series of stamps that the first really formidable array of minor varieties of perforation occur. They are very numerous in this issue. They exist imperforate, and partly imperforate, and in some cases have double and triple perforations.

A curious stamp in the album of the writer is a specimen of the 1 centime stamp which has been surcharged with the familiar superscription "Deux Cents." in red and partially washed off.

At no time in the history of the Haytian Post Office have stamps of a low face value been surcharged in order to raise the nominal value. It has always been the practice to use the surcharge to reduce rather than raise the value. There is no official emission of such a surcharge, and one can only surmise that its issue was caused either by carelessness or by fraud on the part of a postal official. The familiar hand-stamp for surcharging the 2 centimes orange stamp of this issue would be lying in the office, and any employee might take it into his head to use it for the purpose of manufacturing a variety that, so far as the writer has ascertained, is unique. The stamp is unused, and someone not familiar with the love of the philatelist has been trying to rub away the intruding superscription.

Another curious variety that is evidently caused by a deficiency in the inking of the plates is that which shows the value in the shields of the 1 centime stamp in outline numerals.

The recent sale of remainders by the Haytian postal authorities chiefly affects the issue now under consideration. The stamps of this series, of which remainders have been sold, are the 3, 5, 7, and 20 centimes ones. The entire lot of the remainders have been sold to an American dealer, and no details of the number or of the price at which they were sold have been stated.

Summary. Issue of 1896. Re-engraved.

1	centime,	light blue.
2	centimes,	red-brown.
3	..	drab-lilac.
5	..	slate-green.
7	..	grey.
20	..	orange.

1898 Surcharged in red.



The need for an extra supply of 2 centimes stamps was again felt in 1898, and the remainders of the two 20 centimes stamps of the 1893 and 1896 issues were overprinted with the usual "Deux 2 Cent." surcharge, which was applied in red.

Summary 1898. Surcharged in red.

2	centimes on 20 centimes,	brown.
2	..	20 .. orange.

CHAPTER IX.

The Provisional Series of 1898.



The sixth issue of Haytian Stamps opens a new epoch in the philatelic history of this Republic. It is the first series of these stamps into which are introduced "stamp dealing for collectors" has been introduced, and consequently to the philatelist it has but little interest.

The new stamps were issued in March, 1898, and bear a new design, the central feature of which is the arms of the Republic. Hitherto on the stamps showing the "arms" of Hayti the palm tree design has been on a plain white background, but in the series now under consideration the background is engraved with horizontal lines.

The arms design is smaller and more compact than that of the former issue, and the frame consists of an arched curve above, and of an ornamental leaf-work design below.

The numerals in the last issue were in colour on the white backgrounds of the shield design, but in the series they stand out in white on a coloured circular

background enclosed in a somewhat ornamental border.

There is one numeral on each side of the top portion of the stamp, and connecting the two circles containing the figure is a band of colour bearing in white the contraction "Cent."

On an oblong tablet below is the following inscription of two lines :—

REPUBLIQUE.

D'HAÏTI.

This is the only series on which two lines are devoted to this inscription, for on the earlier stamps bearing the "arms" design the inscription was in one line of small capitals. In the Liberty head series it was in one circular band, while on the type showing the head of President Salomon the name "Haiti" alone was used.

The paper is thinner and whiter than that of the previous issue, and the gum is but a thin coating of a colourless mucilage. These are the only stamps of Haiti that are on watermarked paper. The watermark shows the initials of the "Republique d'Haiti," namely, R.H. The letters are large capitals of an elongated Grecian pattern.

The gauge of the perforations of these stamps is 11, and is uniform throughout.

The stamps, which are of attractive appearance, were engraved in *taille douce* by the Compagnie Française des papiers Monnaies. The imprint of

this well-known stamp-producing company is to be seen on the lower margin of each sheet of the stamps. Each sheet consisted of 100 stamps in ten rows of ten labels each.

Of the colours of these stamps it may be said that they are among the brightest of tints. The one centime stamp is printed in an attractive shade of ultramarine, and the two centime stamp is in a rather less pretty brown rose. The three centime stamp is in rather an uncommon philatelic shade of violet. The five centime stamp is in the usual green colour which has been used for all the five centime stamps of Hayti except two. These exceptions, it will be remembered, were in the issues of 1891 and 1892 when in each case the colour was orange. The seven centime stamp is in grey, and the twenty centime stamp is printed in light orange.

Of minor varieties there are only a few. The one centime stamp is frequently found with a perforation through the centre, but this is obviously a case of inaccurate setting of the perforating machine, and was not intended for a "bisected provisional," as some collectors have supposed.

An interesting variety of the five centime stamp shows a distinct double impression. The Compagnie Française des papiers Monnaies printed the following quantities of these stamps:—Of the one centime and three centimes stamps, 20,000 each; of the five centimes, 500,000; of the five centimes, 440,000.

of the seven and twenty centime stamps, 10,000 each.

These would not seem exorbitant numbers for one issue of stamps, but when the fact is taken into consideration that it was really only a provisional issue, the numbers were needlessly great. The issue was only put forward in order to serve the postal needs of the Republic until the full series showing the President's portrait then in preparation by the American Bank Note Co. was ready.

Indeed, in the same year the new series was ready and issued even before they had required to draw upon the stock of 1, 3, 7, and 20 centime stamps of the March (1898) series. All that time the post offices held sufficient stocks of the previous (1896) issue of these four denominations. So that there was really no use for the 1, 3, 7, and 20 centimes stamps of this series.

The result of this unnecessary printing was that they were soon transferred to the hands of a private speculator for philatelic purposes. The 1, 3, 7, and 20 centimes stamps were never sold at the post offices in the ordinary way, but almost the entire issue of them was sold to a private speculator.

According to a correspondent of the *Monthly Journal*, 650 (of each) were forwarded to Berne to make the issue legal in the eyes of the Postal Union, the rest were given away to friends by the Director of the Bavarian Post Office, and the remaining 9000 were

retained by the person who bought the stock. In the case of the 1 centime and 3 centimes stamps there would be a surplus of 19,000 instead of 9000 for sale to the speculator. They are evidently being "loaded" with care, for they are rarely to be had at prices that are not well inflated.

It is interesting to note, however, that the post office passes these stamps when franking letters just as though they were of full postal value. This accounts for the used specimens that are occasionally seen.

The other two stamps, the 2 centimes brown-rose and the 5 centimes green, were used to a considerable extent, though not nearly to the extent of the number printed. A great number of them were sold as remainders a few years ago.

**Summary. Issue of March, 1898. Watermarked R
Perforated 11.**

- 1 centime ultramarine.
- 2 centimes brown-rose.
- 3 centimes violet.
- 5 centimes green.
- 7 centimes grey.
- 20 centimes orange.

CHAPTER X.

The President Sam Series, 1898-99



The stamps last described were, as already stated, merely issued for a brief space of time while a complete and elaborate series was being prepared. The production of the new stamps was entrusted to the American Bank Note Company, a firm which makes a general practice of inscribing its name under each stamp. The stamps are quite different from all former issues, and the most important change is the portrayal on some of the stamps of the then head of the Haytian Republic. The last and only real portrait that had hitherto appeared on the stamps of Hayti was that of Salomon, whose ignominious flight ended his presidential career not long after the stamps in question had been issued. Since then two im-

portant leaders had passed through terms of office as President. The immediate successor to Salomon was General Legitime, who, like his unhappy predecessor, was compelled to take refuge in flight. When he fled to New York, President Hippolyte succeeded to the headship of the State. This Hippolyte, although he was the fourteenth President of the Black Republic, was the first and only one who actually died a natural death while in office, and being a particularly humane ruler it was more than likely that he died before his political enemies had sent him in the road his predecessors trod. His successor, General Sam, proved a more worthy man in every way, acquiring his unenviable distinction in 1896.

President Tiresias Augustin Simon Sam is the subject of the design on the second series of postage stamps issued by the Haytian Republic. To amplify the stamp portrait, the following pen picture of the President may be quoted from Hesketh Pritchard "Where Black rules White":—

"When I passed the white palace the President was sitting on the balcony playing draughts. He is a full-blooded negro, with a heavy face and heavy negro mouth, set between a grey beard and grey hair brushed up from his forehead. He must weigh close upon 18 stone. He is a superlative specimen of his race, and the black faction in Hayti have at least secured an admirably representative figurehead. The

make this clear it must be explained that Hayti for the black, as differentiated from the mulatto or coloured man, is the watchword of the great majority in the Republic."

The same writer refers to the superiority of character of President Sam. He says:—

"There is in the constitution a law abolishing the penalty of death for political misdemeanours, but it was ignored by every President without exception who has held power in the island until General Sam, who is now at the head of the Government, came into office. To his credit be it said that he usually sends his political enemies to prison instead of shooting them out of hand against the crumbling arsenal wall, after the immortal principles of his predecessors, Salomon and Hippolyte. I could name one gentleman at least who, if he succeeds to the presidential chair, which is quite on the cards, will revive the good old customs of the past."

The portrait of President Sam, on the new stamps of Hayti, showed a semi profile of the head and bust of the chief of State. He is in military uniform, and his features have a somewhat fierce expression. The portrait is enclosed in a circle, which occupies the upper portion of the stamp, and is surmounted by a semi-circular band containing the inscription REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI. In each corner of the stamp is the figure denoting the value, and the lower portion of the design consists of a part of the "arms" of the

Republic. Across the bottom of the stamp is the word CENTIME or CENTIMES, spelt, for the first time in the history of the Haytian stamps, in full.

All the stamps of the series, however, do not show the President's portrait. A few show a large and new type of the arms design. The chief feature of these stamps is the design of the arms occupying a position similar to the portrait on the other specimens. The motto of the Republic appears for the first time on these stamps, and is perhaps scarcely appropriate when the unhappy internal troubles of the country are taken into consideration. It is in French—"L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE." The word "CENTIME" is on a curved band at the bottom of the design instead of a straight one as on the portrait stamps.

The series consists of stamps of twelve denominations. The portrait type was used at first for all these except the fourth, seventh, eighth, and ninth stamps of the series. A distinctive colour was used for each value, and the stamps were printed in sheets of 100. The stamps are of a large oblong shape and the gauge of the perforation is 12 throughout. The perforation, as also the shades of the stamps, is uniform. I have never seen an undoubtedly imperforate specimen of any of the stamps, although I have several which are said to be such varieties. Previous issues have included stamps of 20 centimes in value and less, and it is in this issue that the value of the gourde appears for the first time. The gourde is 100

nominal equivalent of the American dollar, and consists of 100 centimes, which are equivalent not to French *centimes*, but to American *cents*. In nearly every other matter the Haytians have adopted French principles, but so far as money is concerned they have imitated the United States.

Summary. Issue of 1898. Two Types. Portrait of President and Arms Design.

- 1 centime, ultramarine, President's portrait.
- 2 centimes, orange, President's portrait.
- 3 centimes, green, President's portrait.
- 4 centimes, red, arms design.
- 5 centimes, red-brown, President's portrait.
- 7 centimes, grey, President's portrait.
- 8 centimes, carmine, arms design.
- 10 centimes, orange-red, arms design.
- 15 centimes, olive, arms design.
- 20 centimes, black, President's portrait.
- 50 centimes, rose-brown, President's portrait.
- 1 gourde, lilac, President's portrait.

Issue of 1898.

Unpaid Stamps.

Among the stamps of the series printed for the Haytian Republic by the American Bank Note Company were four labels denoting the amount due on the delivery of a letter in case of insufficient or entire neglect of payment of postage. These stamps,



which are of the 2, 5, 10, and 50 centime denominations, are all of a similar design. They are admirable examples of labels issued for the purpose of denoting postage due, the central feature of the design consisting of a bold and readily distinguishable numeral denoting the number of centimes demanded by the Post Office. The stamps are similar in size to other stamps of the American Bank Note Company series, being of the upright oblong pattern, and each specimen bears the firm's imprint in small capital letters beneath the stamp design.

The numeral of value stands boldly out upon a finely engraved background of networked design enclosed in a rectangular frame.

The bands at the top and bottom give the words "CHIFFRE" and "TAXE" respectively, while at each side is the word "POSTES." At each of the four corners the initials of the Republic d'Haiti, R. H. are given in small squares. Under the numeral is a curved band bearing the two-lined inscription "CINQ TIMES A PERCEVOIR," as on the familiar "unpaid" stamps of the French Republic. The colour of the two centime stamp is a greenish-black, of the five centime stamp an orange-brown, the ten centime stamp bright orange, and the fifty centime slate. The shades of each of the colours are quite uniform.

The gauge of the perforation is the same as the prepaid postage stamps of the series of 1898, namely, 12.

Summary. Issue of 1898. Postage due.

- 2 centimes, greenish-black.
- 5 centimes, orange-brown.
- 10 centimes, orange.
- 50 centimes, slate.

Issue of 1899. Postal Union Colours.

The recommendations of the Conference of the Universal Postal Union at Washington, with regard to the uniformity of the colours of all stamps of certain denominations, gave occasion for a change of colour and type of three of the postage stamps of the 1898 issue.

These were the 1 centime, 2 and 5 centimes stamps, which were all produced by the American Bank Note Company in the new colours, the type being changed to the arms design at the same time.

The new colours are yellow-green for the 1 centime stamp, lake for the 2 centimes, and light blue for the 5 centimes stamps. The gauge and the perforation and the size are uniform with those of the previous issue.

Summary. Issue of 1899. Postal Union Colours.**Arms Design.**

- 1 centime, yellow-green.
- 2 centimes, lake.
- 5 centimes, light-blue.

CHAPTER XI.

The "Provisional Government" Series, 1902.

There were during 1900 several rumours which gave rise to the belief that the stamps of the last series had been withdrawn. These were to some extent based on the information that a quantity of the stamps being consigned to the Haytian postal authorities by the American Bank Note Co. had been stolen.

The story will be best understood from the following two quotations from correspondence addressed to the Editor of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. One correspondent wrote:—

"A gentleman just arrived from Hayti informs me that the entire recent issue has been declared void. The reason of this is said to be that a case of stamps shipped to the Haytian Government by the American Bank Note Co., on the steamer *Andes*, about a month ago, was rifled of its contents while in transit. The purser of the ship was said to be implicated. The stolen stamps were placed on the market in Hayti by the Second Director of Postes assisting in the sale. He is said to have sold the stolen stamps from the Post office at 50 per cent. discount in Haytian money."

"When the facts became known the postal office refused to recognise the stamps of this issue for postage, and seized the stamps wherever found. The

gang was arrested and punished (à la Hayti). I am told that whatever property belonging to the guilty parties can be found is seized and they are turned adrift, frequently first receiving a flogging. The alternative would be wasting away uncared for in a dungeon. This would be less satisfactory to the officials, and besides necessitating trial, conviction, etc.

"We were unable to learn what stamps are being used. One informant demanded that his letters should be forwarded bearing the stamps which he had innocently bought off a postal official, and, being an American citizen, they acceded to his demands."

Another letter appeared a short time afterwards contradicting the chief statements in the foregoing letter. According to the second correspondent the following are the principal facts of the affair:—

"On opening the 5 cases of stamps received from the American Bank Note Co. it was discovered that one of the cases had been opened, the inner tin case not open, and 287 sheets of 100 stamps each, of the 5c. value, had been extracted therefrom. Notice of this fact was sent to the American Bank Note Co. A few days before the issue was placed on sale at the Post Office the Director General of Posts learned that some of these stamps had been offered and sold to a commercial house by a relative of a clerk employed in the steamship company's office, and, on inquiry and search being made, some of these stamps were found in the possession of the party accused and

were seized. In the meanwhile the steamer, having left here for other ports in the island, reached Jacmel. A letter was given to the Jacmel courier, but, as the couriers are forbidden to deliver letters received outside office direct, he handed it over to the Director General. This letter proved to be from the aforementioned clerk, and addressed to the purser of the steamer, informing him that the theft had been discovered, and advising him not to return here.

"A preliminary hearing of the case took place before the examining judge (Juge d'Instruction) whose function corresponds in a measure with that of the grand jury in the United States, but it seemed sufficient proof was wanting to have the parties implicated here held for trial. However, the clerk had been dismissed by the agent of the steamship company and I am told the agents in New York have done the same for the purser. No one has been flogged, nor has had their property seized, nor has any one been obliged to appeal to their American citizenship to have their letters, franked with these stamps, forwarded."

The latter of these two communications must have been the more correct as the stamps remained unchanged until the formation of the Provisional Government and the downfall of President Sam.

Antenor Firmin, the Haytian plenipotentiary at Paris, was recalled, and arrived in May, 1902, at Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The political situation of the Republic

a very grave one, and for some months a grievous civil war waged.

The whole series of stamps current until May, 1902, were surcharged in black with the inscription MAI — Gt. Pre.—1902, in three lines, and enclosed in a lined border with rounded corners. Both the ordinary postage stamps and the unpaid letter stamps received the surcharge.



All the usual abnormal varieties which are to be found in similarly overprinted stamps are to be found in this series. The chief errors of surcharge are double, inverted, and broken impressions of the overprint. A few have also been seen with the surcharge in red instead of black.

Summary 1902 Issue.

Provisional Government, surcharged on previous Issue.

1	centime,	yellow green.
2	centimes,	lake.
3	"	green.
4	"	red.
5	"	light blue.
7	"	grey.
8	"	carmine.
10	"	orange.
15	"	olive.
20	"	black.
50	"	rose-brown.
1	gourde,	lilac.

Unpaid Stamps.

2	centimes,	greenish-black.
5	"	orange-brown.
10	"	orange.
50	"	slate.

CHAPTER XII.

The Commemorative Series, 1904.



The Independence of the Island of Hayti, as stated in the introduction, was declared on January 1st, 1810. The centenary of the event suggested to the Haytian Government the idea of commemorating the anniversary by the issue of a series of stamps. The scheme was, of course, no new one, having been tried in many other States, some of which are only too glad to take the excuse of a national commemoration for the issue of a new set of stamps to sell to collectors, and to replenish their depleted treasuries.

When the idea of a commemorative series was first mooted, it was decided to adopt a suggestion, which had been rejected by a former President—Salomon—that portraits of the chief heroes of Hayti should be depicted on the stamps.



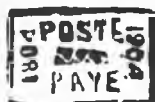
The distinguished blacks who are thus honoured on the commemorative series of 1904 were Toussaint L'Ouverture, who refused to hand over the reins of government to the French when the peace of Basle had placed the entire island in the hands of that

nation. He was betrayed and taken prisoner by the French, and died in captivity.

Dessalines was the first President—a negro ruler, but without the administrative capacity of Toussaint. He was brutal, corrupt, and venal. His end was assassination. Petion succeeded Dessalines. Unlike the majority of his successors, he died from fever. Thus the trio portrayed on this commemorative series is suggestive of patriotism on the part of these negro self-rulers, and displays to the outside world the founders of a republic which has not its parallel in the wide world.

The stamps were issued first with a blue overprint applied by hand stamp, inscribed "Poste Payé, 1804-1904." But afterwards they were issued without this disfigurement.

The story of the occasion for the use of this special mark seems to have been that, as the Haytian authorities would not or could not go to the



expense of the production of the stamps themselves. M. Borno, a millionaire, kindly placed the necessary funds at the disposal of the government. He visited Paris and gave the order for the manufacture of 100,000 sets of stamps to M. Côté, an engraver and printer. These were despatched from the Haytian Embassy in three consignments, and with the plates sending the plates were included. The latter were defaced by the postal authorities at Port au Prince.

M. Borno, who was not to receive any cash payment for the stamps, was instead to receive a portion of the issue. These were delivered to him in perfect condition. To render M. Borno's stamps useless for postal purposes, therefore, the Haytian Government at first overprinted those which were to be sold at the post offices in Hayti, and only those thus marked were available for postage. M. Borno, it would seem, unjustly protested against this move, and persuaded the Government to do away with the overprint. Thus the stamps have been issued for postal purposes, both with the overprint and without it.

The stamps proper are bi-coloured, with the exception of the 1 centime, which is the only one without a portrait. It bears a design of the Arms of Hayti in place of the portrait. All are perforated 12.

It need hardly be said again here that the surcharges—especially as they were applied with hand stamps—are in all sorts of positions, and may be had with every possible variation. There are also two types of the

Surcharge which are impressed from two different handstamps.

Summary 1904. Commemorative Issue. Perforated
12. Overprinted in Blue.

1 centime,	green (Arms design).
2 centimes,	rose and black (Toussaint L'Ouverture).
5 "	blue and black " "
7 "	maroon and black (J. J. Dessalines).
10 "	yellow and black "
20 "	slate and black (A. Petion).
50 "	olive and black "

The Same. Without Surcharge.

1 centime,	green.
2 centimes,	rose and black.
5 "	blue and black.
7 "	maroon and black.
10 "	yellow and black.
20 "	slate and black.
50 "	olive and black.

CHAPTER XIII.

The President Nord Alexis Series, 1904.



At the same time as Borno was ordering the preceding series, he ordered a second series for general use with a portrait upon all values of the present head of the Republic, General Nord Alexis.

President Nord Alexis was an old man when he was elected to the Presidency in 1903, his age being eighty-three. He was the son of Baron Nord Alexis, a high dignitary in the reign of Henri Christophe, and colonel of one of the regiments of the guard of the Prince Royal. The President's mother was a daughter of Baron Pavie, and a god-daughter of the Emperor Dessalines.

The present Nord Alexis was born at Cap-Haïtien on the 2nd August, 1820, and at the age of nine commenced his military career—one of the few careers open to Haytians—as a private in the Haytian infantry and later passing into the cavalry. He became officer of gendarmes in 1843, and two years later obtained his captaincy, and was attached as aide-de-camp

the military establishment of the Chief of State, then General Prince Louis Pierrot, whose daughter Amelia he married.

He became adjutant at Cap Haitien in 1847, and when the Empire was founded took rank as a Chevalier in the old Nobility, and the two premier orders of the Empire were conferred upon him. He had then command of the communes of Plaine-du-Nord and of Aul-du-Nord.

In the Revolution of 1865 he fought against the revolutionaries, and along with Salmave, Seide Télémaque, and Laforêt, made an admirable but unsuccessful defence. Salmave and he were obliged to embark on the American boat *De Soto*, which landed them at Monte Christy.

He returned with Salmave when the latter came into power in 1867, and suppressed the Cacos Rebellion; in 1868 he became Minister of War for the Provisional Government of St. Marc. All through the many changes of rulership the fortunes of Nord Alexis rose and fell. Under the rule of Michel Domingue he was tried by a Council of War at the instance of Septimus Kameau, one of Michel's supporters, and condemned to five years' imprisonment. Later, in 1880 and 1883, his persecutors again thrust him into prison.

His former companion Seide Télémaque sent for him to assist him in a revolutionary movement in 1888, and on President Salomon's flight Télémaque and Legitime were both candidates for the Presidency.

The two parties went to arms and Télémaque was killed in the conflict. The following year, under the Presidency of General Hippolyte, Nord Alexis was made delegate extraordinary and returned to command. Hippolyte died in office, probably the only instance of a President's natural death in official Hayti's history. Tiresias Augustus Simon Samblanc received the public vote, and Nord Alexis continued in his duties.

Then on the downfall of General Sam, Nord Alexis enlisted his sympathies with the Provisional Government, and in spite of his eighty-two years he led a band of patriots in the ruinous civil war which followed, and ultimately was recognised and proclaimed as the Chief of State. Thus in his eight-fourth year he received the highest honour which his country could confer upon him, an honour which must have required as much valour to accept as he had displayed in the field, fraught as the high office was not only with difficulties innumerable but with personal danger.

This is a brief outline, as much as can be ventured upon here, of the career of the veteran who is portrayed on the stamps issued for general use in 1901. Except for the portrait the stamps of this series are similar in design to the commemorative stamps described in the previous chapter.

Neither of the issues can be called attractive, as both were largely stamped with the hand-stamp

Before use, they are not ornaments to the stamp album, neither are they highly desirable acquisitions to any collection. The same remarks about the "Poste Payé" mark apply to this series as to the preceding one. It was at first intended to withhold the President Nord Alexis series until the 1898-9 series was entirely exhausted. But the instability of the position of head of the Republic is such that the authorities were probably wisely advised in getting the President Nord Alexis series in use at once and in withdrawing all the surplus stock of the 1898-9 issue.

The stamps of the present series are in one colour only, and, like the commemorative issue, are perforated 12.

Summary 1904. General Issue. Perforated 12.

Portrait of General Nord Alexis, with overprint in blue.

- 1 centime green.
- 2 centimes red.
- 5 centimes deep blue.
- 10 centimes orange-brown.
- 20 centimes orange.
- 50 centimes violet-brown.

The Same—without Overprint.

- 1 centime green.
- 2 centimes red.
- 5 centimes deep blue.
- 10 centimes orange-brown.
- 20 centimes orange.
- 50 centimes violet-brown.

CHAPTER XIV.

Essays.

Several interesting essays have been made by the postal authorities, which have not been put into currency at any time. These were probably made about the time of the withdrawal of the Salomon head stamp as they all show the same border, the central portion of the design only being changed. This, it may be conjectured, was the first expedient that occurred to the minds of the postal authorities at the time when Salomon having been forced to seek shelter from his enemies in flight, the stamps bearing his portrait became useless. There are two varieties of type, and both are illustrated here. The first is a form of the Arms design, rather more elaborate in detail and certainly finer in execution than that which was actually adopted (1891). To judge from the proof impression, however, its chief drawback as a postage stamp was the intricacy of the design which by reason of the vast amount of detail compressed into so small a space rendered the features of the stamp anything but prominent. Every specimen the writer has seen of essays of this type has been taken from a design intended for a stamp of the denomination of three centimes, and this has been tried in many colours.

The second type of essay showing the border of the 1887 issue has as its distinguishing feature a numer-



The centre of the stamp formerly occupied by the President's portrait is here devoted to a large numeral standing boldly out upon a back-ground of horizontal lines. While doubtless for postal clerks this design may have proved of advantage it cannot be wondered that a stamp of more patriotic interest was preferred and so this essay was discarded in favour of the series showing the Republican arms. The writer has three strips of three of these essays, each strip being properly perforated and affixed to a card. One is of a blue and the other of red colour, and each is of the five centimes denomination. The illustrations on the preceding page also include three proof impressions of the issued "Salomon" series.

There is another essay in the form of a surcharge of the type of 1898 showing the portrait of President Seward.

The 70 centimes orange stamp issued for fiscal purposes appears to have been used on some occasions for postal duty. Several copies postally used are known, but by what authority they were so utilised is not certain.

CHAPTER XV.

Forgeries and Bogus Stamps.

As in the case of many small republics Hayti has proved rather a happy hunting ground for the forger of postage stamps. The products of the counterfeiters, however, have had in the main for their object the defrauding of the postal authorities, not merely the swindling of stamp collectors. Thus it happens that the great majority of known forgeries of Haytian stamps have passed through the post and bear genuine postmarks.

The most notable of Haytian forgeries are the complete counterfeited sets of the Liberty head type. These were long regarded as genuine varieties, differing from the normal specimens in perforation. The gauge of the genuine stamp was $13\frac{1}{2}$, of the forgeries 16 and 18. The complete set exists perforated 16, and all save the 1 centime stamp are known in the gauge 14.

The following summary of the chief points of difference has been drawn up by a writer in the *Timbre Poste*. The translation is that of the *Monthly Journal*.*

"The letter 'R' of *Republique*" is too narrow; the first 'E' of that word has the upper limb longer than the lower, instead of the contrary being the case; the

* *Monthly Journal*, Vol. x., p. 68.

'Q' appears to be smaller, and its tail is also straight; the last 'E' has the lower limb no longer than the upper.

"The ornaments at each side of the shield smaller than in the genuine.

"The profile has a pointed nose, with no visible nostril; the lips are thin and the chin too large; two locks of hair by the side of the ear are short and hang down.

"The lines of shading on the face are the same as in the genuine.

"The letters of the word 'Cent.' are too thick; the letters 'C' wider and more open, and the letters 't' have the horizontal bars too heavy.

"The piles of cannon balls are closer together.

"Of the numerals—the '1' is too thick; the '2' too wide; the '3' too small (4mm. high instead of 4½mm.); the '5' has too wide a head, and the same is the case with the '7'; in the '20' there is a defect at the left-hand end of the foot of the figure '2'.

"The stamps are lithographed and transferred direct to the stone, with the numerals inserted in the transfer; there are, therefore, no differences of shading between the designs of the various values.

"The paper is white, speckled; the perforation varies.

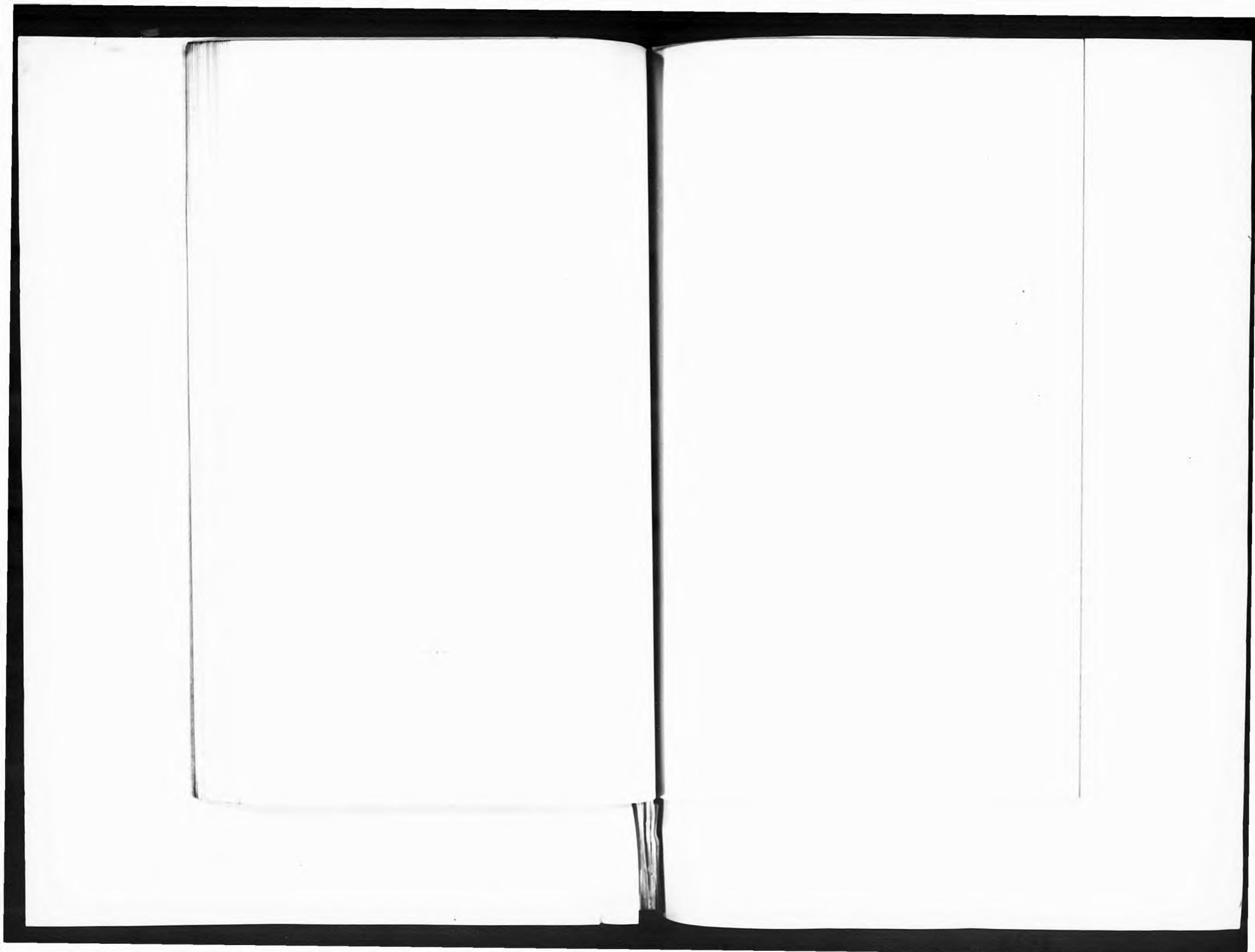
"1. Perforated 16.

- 1c., bright vermilion-red.
- 2c., deep violet.
- 3c., yellowish grey.
- 5c., pale yellow-green.
- 7c., bright blue.
- 20c., red-brown.

"2. Perforated 14.

- 2c., deep violet.
- 3c., pale brown.
- 5c., pale yellow-green.
- 5c., bright yellow-green.
- 7c., blue.
- 7c., bright blue.
- 7c., deep blue.
- 20c., red-brown."

There has been circulated amongst stamp collectors a label that is of an entirely fraudulent character. As generally the case with bogus stamps it is poor both in design and in execution. The label bears a representation of a female head looking to left, *possibly* intended for liberty. The inscription reads "Maravedis - Marquato J. Hayti Pommare."



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